

# **Mine Falls Park Advisory Committee**

Chairman: Joshua L. Segal 31 Scott Avenue Nashua, NH 03062

### THE 2012 END OF THE YEAR REPORT

The park at this time remains well maintained and very clean.

In January, 2012 we held officer elections:

Chairman: Joshua SegalVice-Chairman: Dave SilvaScribe: Greg Andruskevich

Trail dates and meeting dates for 2012 were specified as:

2012 Meetings: Jan. 9, Feb. 6, Mar. 5, Apr. 2, May 7, June 4, Aug. 6, Sept. 10, Oct. 1, Nov. 5, Dec.

3 (Meeting scheduled for July 2 was canceled)

2012 Trail Days: Apr. 21, May 19, June 16, Aug. 18, Sept. 15, Oct. 20, (The possible trail day for

Nov. 10 was not held)

The trail day volunteer count varied from 12 to almost 70. The 70 is reported to have been the largest turnout ever for an MFPAC Trail Day.

The major capital projects of the year:

- Milfoil and herbicide treatment in the canal
- The water chestnut removal project in the mill pond

### Other projects included:

- Erosion control on the Red Trail including rerouting around the cliff area near the Gatehouse.
- Reopening a Trail on the South Side of the Canal by N. 7<sup>th</sup> St.
- Knotweed control experiment at the Spine Road (aka Millyard River Entrance)
- Producing a kid's coloring book featuring animals resident in the park. The Committee is indebted to Michaella Wiss for the drawings as well as the layout of the book.

#### **Ongoing Projects:**

- New signage for the park has been installed and is waiting for the logos and inserts
- Covering and/or cleaning up graffiti
- Maintaining availability of "Dog Litter Bags" (Mark Soucy and Joshua Segal)
- Picking up litter
- Photographic documentation (Greg Andruskevich)
- Restoration of the areas associated with "Ethnic Swimming Areas" along the Yellow Trail

The committee has some concerns that require the help of the city in solving.

- 1. Unleashed dogs in the park,
- 2. Too many dogs in the park
- 3. Dog owners who do not properly pick up after their dogs and dispose of the waste.
- 4. Police presence in the park for safety and to help monitor the dog problem.

2012 was a good year for the park and the committee! Many dedicated people worked to improve and maintain the park. The Park and Recreation superintendent, Nick Caggiano, is always helpful



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and responsive to the needs of the park. Our Conservation Commission representative, Dick Gillespie, had great ideas on park maintenance that he shared and helped implement. Mark Soucy, Ed Moran, Sherm Sewall, Leo Parker, Mike Dillon, Dave Silva and Joshua Segal led teams on Trail Days. Peter Testa along with Mark Soucy were constants at coordinating Trail Day Registration. Greg Andruskevich is always a presence in the park documenting the park 4-seasons per year, not to mention his superb work maintaining the park and providing monthly minutes as Scribe. Scott Rogers is also a presence in the park, with special emphasis on the Cove. Todd Guay and the Soccer Council of Nashua has been a great resource in keeping the Whipple St. Entrance clean and has provided support and leadership. We welcome Carol Rust as a new member of the committee and anticipate adding Pam Anderson in 2013. Pam has already been a great presence on Trail Days as docent at the Gatehouse along with Mike Dillon.

While not on the committee per se, I would be remiss not mentioning Dick LaRose, Shoko Yoshikawa and Lynn Schultz who are regulars at Trail Days and often lead projects. Also, Sonny and Carol Bruce are park regulars who are always contributing to the "user friendliness" of the park.

The continued vigilance of the MFPAC has resulted in dismantling a number of homeless camp sites in the park and we suspect there is a direct correlation between this activity and the absence of any violence in the park this year.

In attempting to keep the Cheyenne Drive side of the park clean, we have also expended a level of effort in parts of Lincoln Park that are hidden from view.

Graffiti is a constant issue in the park. A number of us, including, Greg Andruskevich, Dick LaRose and Ed Moran did a lot of "paint-over".

Beyond that, we had support from City Parks and Rec as well as our summer interns.

During the summer of 2012, "Port-a-Potties" were installed at the Lincoln Park Entrance, the Spine Road Entrance and the Whipple Street Entrance. These were repeatedly vandalized and were located close enough to the trails that offensive odors were continually present to passers-by. The committee wants to go on record that we are in favor of their **permanent removal.** 

The Cell Phone Tower at Soifert Fields was equipped with more antennae resulting in higher fees to the park's trust fund.

Joshua L. Segal, Chairman MFPAC Submitted, December 1, 2012

Note: The book, "*Mine Falls Park, Nashua, NH: A History and a Trail Guide*", copyright 2011 is available locally at Goodales and on the internet from Amazon.